attitude of the Air India Management in managing its finances;

(d) whether any action is proposed to be taken against Air India Management; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) "TOGETHER" is a monthly newsletter started by Air India;

(b) and (c) No, Sir. It was only a suggestion of an employee of Air India.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

महाराष्ट्र में एक विदेशी कम्पनी द्वारा विमानपत्तनों का निर्माण

1146. **श्रीमती आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल:** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि एक विदेशी कम्पनी महाराष्ट्र में 45 हजार करोड़ रुपये की लागत से विमानपत्तनों का निर्माण कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस कम्पनी का नाम क्या है और वह किस देश से संबंध रखती है;

(ग) क्या उक्त कम्पनी भारत में किसी अन्य स्थान पर भी ऐसे आधुनिक विमानपत्तनों का निर्माण कर रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री सी०एम० इब्राहीम): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Health Facilities in Rural Areas of Maharashtra

1147. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government carried out a survey to find out the reasons for deterioration of health of common man in rural areas of Maharashtra as compared to other States;

(b) if so, the result of the survey;

(c) if not, whether Government will carry out such a survey to see to the health problems of people in rural areas;

(d) the percentage of rural population in Maharashtra not enjoying the benefits of Public Health Centres set up on the State; and

(e) the steps taken to motivate such persons to get benefits of these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) No such survey has been conducted. Data on health status does not indicate deterioration of health of the common man in rural areas of Maharashtra as compared to other states.

(d) and (e) A very substantial percentage of rural population is benefitted by the Public Health Centres.

Imposition of Customs Duty on Newsprint

1148. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR:
SHRI O.P. KOHLI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards grievances of the Indian Newspaper Society that their newspapers will close down in case Government impose a 10 per cent ad-valorem customs duty on newsprint;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to redress the grievances of the Indian Newspaper Society; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) the Indian Newspaper Society has

represented to the Government that the decision to impose duty will adversely affect the economy of newspapers, particularly, the small, medium and regional newspapers and would make the newspapers, particularly small and medium, unviable. They have also requested that the decision to impose customs duty on newsprint should be kept in abeyance till such time a full scale discussion among all concerned is held to work out a satisfactory solution.

(c) and (d) A 10% customs duty was imposed on newsprint with effect from 29.10.96 after taking into account the prevailing international prices and cost of production of indigenous newsprint. It was considered that as of now the indigenous newsprint manufacturers were adversely affected by fall in international prices of newsprint. However, the international price is under constant review and appropriate action, as and when necessary, would be taken.

Raids by Enforcement Deparment on Corporate Houses

1149. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a number of Enforcement department's raids on a number of corporate houses in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A number of premises, connected with the following corporate houses have been searched recently by the Enforcement Directorate:—

1. I.T.C.
2. Shaw Wallace & Co.
3. Geekay Exims (India) Ltd.
4. G.R. Magnets
5. MVR Group of Companies.

Documents relevant for investigations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act have been seized as a result of the searches.

Request by Orissa Government for direct flights connecting Bhubaneshwar with other cities

1150. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Orissa have requested Government for the introduction of new direct flights connecting Bhubaneshwar with other important cities in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction so far;

(c) the new IA flights proposed to be introduced between Bhubaneshwar and other cities in the country;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.;

(b) Indian Airlines has introduced a daily direct service between Bhubaneshwar and Delhi in its winter schedule effective 28.10.96. Besides, Bhubaneshwar is already linked directly with Calcutta, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Madras and Vizag.

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines, at present, has no plans to introduce any new direct service from Bhubaneswhar duc to capacity constraint. Private operators are, however, being encouraged to add more stations in their network including Bhubaneshwar.